

REMARKS

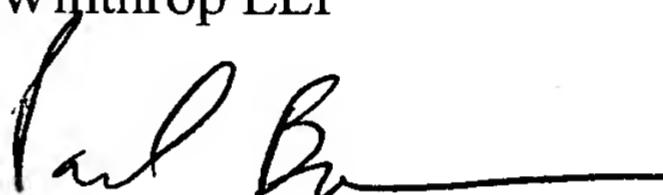
Claims 24-31 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 is cancelled, claims 24-31 are added and formal drawings corresponding to those in the grand-parent application are provided, with the specification having been amended to properly identify all current drawings.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Prompt and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

--NASAL MASK CUSHION ASSEMBLY--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, line adding new the following new paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/566,806, filed May 8, 2000 which claims priority from U.S. Application No. 08/791,212, filed January 31, 1997 (now U.S. Pat. No. 6,112,746), the specifications of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 4, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 22 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view along line [1-1] 2-2;

Page 4, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 23 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a nasal mask including the cushion of Figs. 1 and 2;
[and]

Page 4, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 25 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the nasal mask of Fig. [5] 3 secured to a wearer's head[.];

Page 4, after the paragraph starting in line 25, please add the following new paragraphs:

Fig. 5 is a side view of the mask cushion;

Fig. 6 is a front view of the mask cushion;

Fig. 7 is a rear view of the mask cushion;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view along section lines 8-8 of Fig. 7; and

Fig. 9 is a sectional view along section lines 9-9 of Fig. 7.

Page 5, delete the heading starting at line 1 and replace with the following new heading:

Detailed Description of [the] Preferred Embodiments.

Page 5, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 2 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a nasal cushion 30 embodying the invention. Fig. 2 shows the cross-sectional view along line [1-1] 2-2. [The] Referring to Figs. 1-2 and 5-9, the cushion 30 comprises a substantially triangularly shaped frame 32 from which extends a membrane 34. The frame 32 has a scalloped edge 36 by which the cushion 30 is affixed to a mask body, as presently will be described.

Page 5, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 14 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

As is best seen in Fig. 2, the frame 32 and the membrane 34 are integrally formed, typically by in a one-shot molding process. The frame 32 and the membrane 34 are fabricated from a resilient material. One suitable such material is [Silastic™] SILASTIC™ silicone elastomer manufactured by Dow Corning. The frame 32, is one preferred embodiment, has a typical thickness at its rim 40 of 1.5 mm. The membrane 34, in a preferred embodiment, has a typical thickness of 0.35 mm. In this way, the membrane 34 is relatively more flexible than the rim 40.

Page 5, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 21 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

In use of the cushion 30, a wearer's nose will be inserted in the aperture 38 to engage a seal forming portion 45 (formed between the dashed lines of Fig. 3) of the outer surface 41 to cause deformation of the membrane 34. Depending upon the securing force supplied to the membrane 34, it may deform to a point where it butts against the rim 40 of the frame 32. The

frame 32 has a rigidity sufficient to withstand usual securing pressures in use of the cushion 30 to tend to retain its shape and resist deformation. It thus acts as a supporting structure.

Page 6, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 1 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 3, the nasal cushion 30 is shown attached to a mask body 46 by the edge 36 of the frame 32, adhered or otherwise secured to a flange 48 of the mask body 46. Only the outer surface 41 of the membrane 34 can be seen. The flange 48 includes three slots [50-54] 50, 52, 54 from which tensioning straps can be attached to secure the cushion 30 and the mask body 46 (in combination) to the head of a wearer.

Page 6, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 9 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 4, there is shown a nasal mask 60 including the mask body 46 and the mask cushion 30. A coupling tube 62 is connected at one end with the inlet port 56, and at the other to a socket 64 into which can be received a gas delivery tube [(not shown)] 65 for the supply of breathable gas to the chamber internal of the mask body 46. The mask body 46 from a flow generator 67 also has two vent openings 66 by which expired gas is exhausted. A first fastening strap 68 is fixed between the lower two slots 50, 54. The upper slot 52 receives an arm 70, the top end of which has a resilient pad 72 to engage the forehead of the wearer. The arm 70 has two slots [74, 76] (only one slot shown in Fig. 4) along its side edges, by which a second fastening strap 78 is secured.

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above paragraph

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is a Letter to the Official Draftsperson including Figs. 1-9. Figs. 1-4 have been revised and Figs. 5-9 have been added. These changes were also made in the parent application and approved by Examiner Lewis. The Examiner is requested to provide an indication that the drawings have been accepted and approved in the next Office Action.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 is cancelled herein. New claims 24-31 are added.